

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Of those, claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18 and 20 stand rejected. Claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 are considered allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawings

In response to the Office's objection to the drawings, Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets for Figs. 1 and 2. It is respectfully submitted that the objection is now overcome.

Formal Rejection

While not agreeing with the Examiner's formal objections, the claims have been amended to expedite prosecution. Accordingly, each claim is now deemed to be in condition for allowance.

Anticipation Rejection

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15-18 and 20 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,489,825 to Pasqualini. The Examiner specifically refers to Fig. 2 of the reference in advancing this rejection.

As amended herein, each independent claim recites "wherein at least one of the first

or the second signal passing module is a NAND gate”. The reference neither discloses nor suggests a first or a second signal processing module that is NAND gate. For at least this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that each of independent claims 1, 7, 12 and 15 as well as any claim depending therefrom is allowable.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

The Office considers claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New claims 21, 22, 23 and 24 have been introduced to include all of the limitations of each of the above claims and any intervening claims.


It is respectfully submitted that new claims 21-24 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Please charge a one-month extension of time to Deposit Account No. 04-1679 to Duane Morris LLP. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any issue relating to this application.

Respectfully Submitted,



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